DC
ALL IN
13+ TEEN
2
ZATANNA
CAMPBELL

ALL IN

ABSOLUTE

MARTIAN MANHUNTER

Written by DENIZ CAMP • Art and cover by JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ

A startling evolution of the Absolute Universe beginning in MARCH

Once upon a time that was and was not...
...when the promise of good fortunes were penned into the dancing breeze...
...a fledgling magician crashed and tumbled against the chaotic tides of the astral plane. He could find no foothold, safety net, nor lifeline...
...until he was miraculously extended a helping hand.
The young magician's breath froze upon witnessing the most beautiful girl he would ever see.
HE OBLIVION BAR
THE OBLIVION B
The magician hung on to her every word.
NEXT TIME YOU FIND YOURSELF LOST, JUST WISH FOR OBLIVION, AND OBLIVION SHALL FIND YOU.
And then, she was gone.
However, time would not keep the fate-kissed apart for too long.

???,
NOW.
KRAKOOM
ZATANNAAAAAA...

THE OBLIVION BAR.
SERIOUSLY, THOUGH. WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO ABOUT HOW DEAD THIS PLACE IS?
SNAP
÷SIGH÷ I DON'T KNOW, DAN. I EVEN HAD TO CUT TRACI'S HOURS. AT LEAST ADAM GOT OUT AT THE RIGHT TIME, PERFORMING WITH ZATANNA.
I TRULY WASN'T EXPECTING IT TO BE THIS BAD. WHAT HAPPENED FOR THE BAR TO END UP SO EMPTY?
I HEARD THIS NEW SPOT OPENED OVER IN SAN FRAN. SCOOPED UP ALL OUR REGULARS, LIKE THAT.
SNAP
I COULD START BRINGING MY HOLISTIC DIVINE STUDY GROUP HERE, IF THAT WOULD HELP.
NIMUE, AREN'T YOU ALL SOBER?
HEAR THAT ECHO, BOBO? THAT'S THE SOUND OF "WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PICKY." WE'LL TAKE WHAT WE CAN GET.
BOBO...
÷GROAN÷ LEAVE IT TO ME TO RUN THIS PLACE INTO THE GROUND. JIM AND BOZ MUST BE ROLLING IN THEIR GRAVES.
BANG
BANG
WHAT WAS THAT?
NEW CUSTOMERS?
LIKE WE'RE EVER SO FORTUNATE.
BANG
HEY, BOBO, WHERE DOES THAT DOOR GO?
WHERE DO ANY OF THESE DOORS GO, BLUE?
BANG
BANG

CRASH
ZATANNA?!
KOFF
KOFF
HACK
OH, HELL!
KOFF
KOFF
I'LL BRING HER UPSTAIRS!

SHORTLY THEREAFTER.
OUR ADAM? OUR ADAM, WHO CAN BARELY GET OUT A SENTENCE WITHOUT OVERTHINKING EACH SYLLABLE, STABBED YOU?
I DON'T GET IT EITHER. HE DISAPPEARED WITH THE LADY WHITE AND LEFT ME STRANDED IN THE ASTRAL SEAS. I COULDN'T FOCUS ENOUGH TO MAGIC MYSELF AWAY, SO I INVOKED THE RULE OF THE LOST.
WISH FOR OBLIVION, AND OBLIVION SHALL FIND YOU.
YEAH.
AND YOU STILL FEEL THE SWORD NOW? THE FACT THAT WE CANNOT PERCEIVE IT NOR ITS WOUND IS CONCERNING.
IT'S THERE.
THANK YOU, BOBO.
THERE'S OUR FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, THEN.
OUR LIBRARY ISN'T AS EXTENSIVE AS SHADOWCREST'S OR THE JLU WATCHTOWER'S, BUT I CAN GO SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT COLLECTING DUST BACK THERE.
ZATANNA?
CAN YOU HEAR ME, ZATANNA?
ZATANNAAAAAA...

YOU DIDN'T SAVE ME...
DEATH HIDES IN YOUR SHADOW.
DEATH HIDES IN YOUR LIGHT.
WE WILL DIE...

NO!
ZATANNA! WHAT DID YOU SEE?
CLATTER

N-NOTHING. I'M GOOD, I'M GOOD. I NEED TO GO.

NOT IN THE STATE YOU'RE IN.
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
EMOH, WON.

HEY!
HMMM. I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL.

BOBO, I'M TAKING SOME TIME OFF.
GO, DAN. WE'VE GOT NO CUSTOMERS, ANYWAY. I'LL MAKE SOME CALLS.
I SHALL CONSULT THE CARDS. I SUSPECT ZATANNA, DESPITE HER INSISTENCE, WILL NEED OUR HELP.

SHADOWCREST.
KRAKA-
KOOM
AHHHH!
UGH! HOW'D I MESS UP A BASIC TELEPORTATION SPELL? THIS SWORD...
DROWS, EVOMER FLESRUOY--
ARGHHHH!
:HUFF: THIS THING NEEDS TO BE GONE, NOW. :HUFF:

HERE WE GO.
BRIMSTONE IS TOO VOLATILE... MAYBE MISTLETOE AND DRIED AGRIMONY INSTEAD?
AND, PERFECT.
THEN, FOR A LITTLE EXTRA PROTECTION.
UGHHHHH!
KRAKKKOOOOOM!

I'm caught under your spell, 'cause baby y'know it's that~
BUZZ BUZZ
Magiiiiiiic~
BUZZ BUZZ
GOOD MORNING, ZATANNA. IT IS NOW 7:30 A.M.
YOU HAVE FIFTEEN NEW MESSAGES. PLAYING MESSAGE ONE.
Hey, it's Mikey. Thanks for saving us last night. Some of the gang is a bit shaken up, but we're all good.
A bit worried that we haven't heard from you or Adam, though. Call or shoot a text back and let us know you're both all right, yeah? Stay safe, Boss.
ADAM...

THE CRIMSON PALACE NIGHTCLUB.
KEEP DALLYING AND HE'LL BE IN AN AWFUL MOOD, AND I DO NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH THAT RIGHT NOW.
YES, MA'AM.
WE'RE BACK, DARLING.
AH, BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE CRIMSON PALACE, REJOICE!

OUR LADY AND BROTHER RETURN!
OUR LADY RETURNS!
OUR BROTHER RETURNS!
BR-BROTHER NIGHT, IT'S DONE. I DID WHAT YOU ASKED.
THAT HE DID. 'TWAS TRULY A MARVELOUS PERFORMANCE.
EXCELLENT WORK.
THEN, WHAT YOU PROMISED...
COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US, BROTHER, FOR WHAT YOUR HEART CRAVES SHALL BE YOURS.

I REALLY HOPE YOU'RE HOME, ADAM, BECAUSE WE NEED TO...
...TALK.
€@#$.
CREEEEEAAK
÷SIGH÷ I SAID THAT I DIDN'T NEED HELP ON THIS.
YOU ALSO ONCE TOLD ME YOU WERE A GOOD LIAR, SO HERE WE ARE. BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT PUTTING ME OUT NONE. THE BAR'S ALWAYS JUST A DOOR AWAY.
I'M SERIOUS, DAN. THIS SWORD IS MESSING WITH MY SPELLS. MY MAGIC.
UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS, I CAN'T RISK ANYONE AROUND ME GETTING HURT, OR WORSE.
ZEE, REMEMBER WHEN I WAS FIRST TRAPPED IN THIS BLUE DEVIL SUIT? I WAS THIS CLOSE TO GOING ON A RAMPAGE AND LOSING IT ALL.
YET, DESPITE THE DANGER, YOU STILL TRIED EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO HELP ME.

"AND WHEN ALL ELSE FAILED, YOU SAT WITH ME AND JUST WATCHED OLD DUMB MOVIES THE ENTIRE NIGHT.
"PRETTY SURE IT'S THE ONLY REASON I MADE IT THROUGH WITH ANY OF MY HUMANITY INTACT.
SO, WHILE I ÷AHEM÷ DISAGREE WITH YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT THE ABSOLUTE MASTERPIECE THAT IS THE HEADLESS WOMAN'S HOSTILE HORROR HAUNT III...
...I'LL TAKE EVERY CHANCE TO PAY BACK WHAT YOU DID FOR ME, ZEE. EVERY CHANCE.
I... THANKS, DAN.
BESIDES, I ALSO NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ADAM. I'M GUESSING THIS DECOR WASN'T HIS IDEA?
THE DECAYING WALLS OF FLESH? NO, NOT HIS STYLE.
WELL THEN, TIME FOR ME TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE.
HOLD ON. DO YOU HAVE ANY WEAPONS LYING AROUND THE BAR?
"I NEED TO LET OFF SOME STEAM."
I SURRENDER MINE EYES, AND OBSERVE THROUGH THE WATERS OF THE HIGH PRIESTESS, THAT SHE MAY WHISPER TO ME THE UNCONSCIOUS GIFTS I DOTH SEEK.

"THE INSIGHT OF ***CONSCIOUSNESS*** REVEALS ENTANGLEMENT IN A LABYRINTHINE KNOT.

"THE INSIGHT OF ***UNCONSCIOUSNESS*** REVEALS FIERY MOONLIGHT SPAT FROM VENGEFUL LIPS.

"THE INSIGHT OF ***CHALLENGES*** REVEALS A HEART, THRICE-PIERCED. FIRST BY ***GRAVES,*** THEN BY ***HOLLOW,*** THEN BY ***VENOM.***

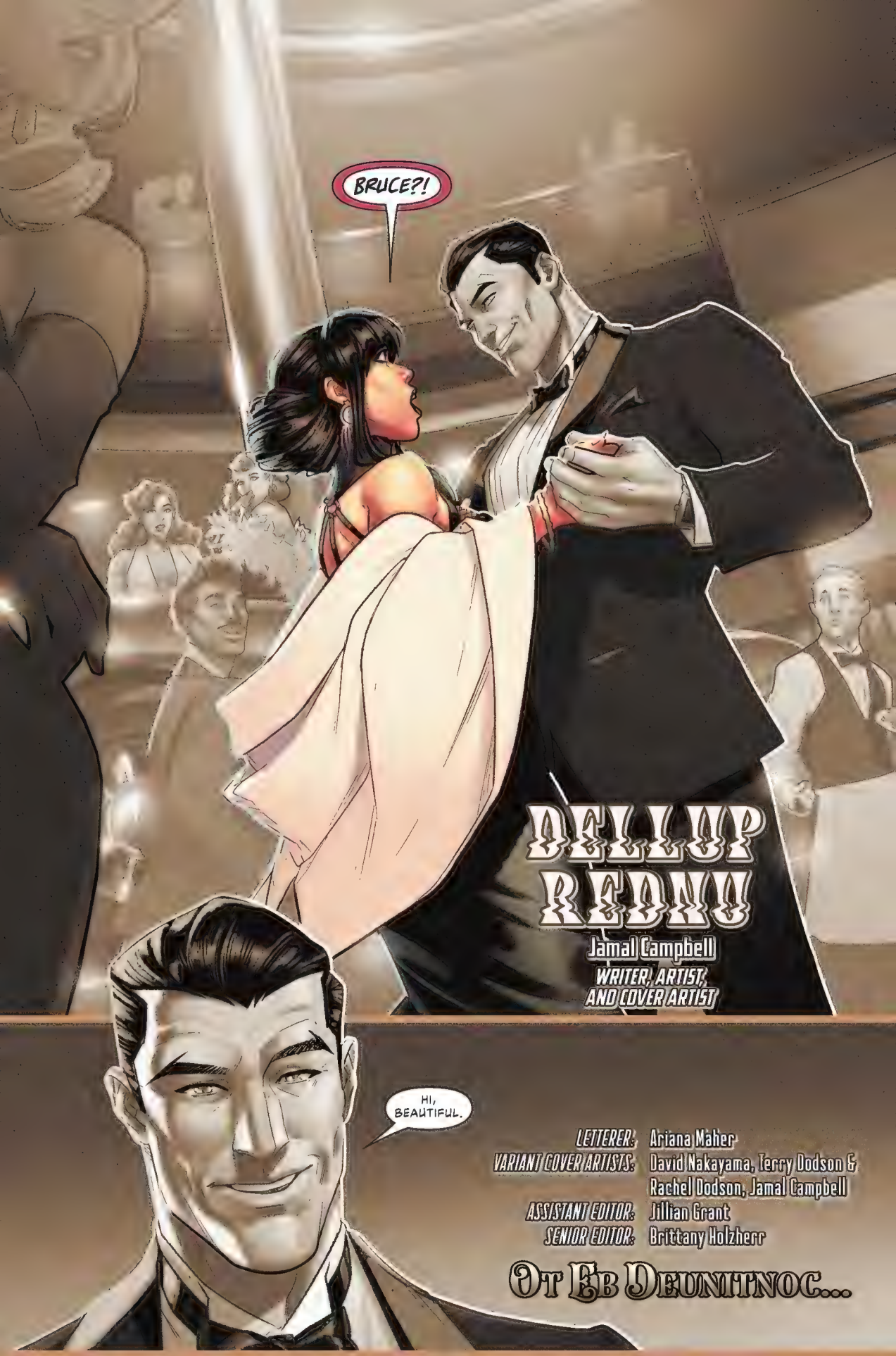
"FINALLY, THE INSIGHT OF ***DESTINIES*** REVEALS.

HOLY MOTHER MARY, IS THAT--
...A SHATTERED MIRROR REFLECTING TWILIGHT RUIN."
ADAM...
I'M SORRY, ZATANNA...

NO...
I'M SORRY, KID. YOU DIDN'T DESERVE THIS.
I DREAMT OF HIM, DAN.
I DREAMT OF ADAM, AND YOU, AND THE OTHERS DROWNING. DEAD BECAUSE OF ME. AND NOW--
ZEE, DON'T.
IT'S JUST... HOW LONG DOES IT LOOK LIKE ADAM'S BEEN DEAD TO YOU?
IT'S HARD TO TELL. A FEW WEEKS, MAYBE?
I SAW HIM YESTERDAY.
SO, WHAT KIND OF MAGIC DOES *THIS* TO A PERSON OVERNIGHT?
I DON'T SENSE ANY MAGIC COMING FROM HIS BO--COMING FROM ADAM. THIS WASN'T SPELLWORK, AND IT HAPPENED LONG BEFORE LAST NIGHT.
THEN WHO OR *WHAT* WAS THE ADAM THAT WAS WITH YOU YESTERDAY?
I WOULD LOVE TO FIND OUT.
HEY, WAIT!
WOHS EM-- ARRGH!
SHRARR
WOHS EM S'MADA ROTSOPMI! GNIRB EM OT SIH RELLIK!

THAT SWORD IS NASTY WORK! ARE--?
OH, YOU DID IT!
KLIK
I'M GUESSING THAT'S THE LADY WHITE, BUT WHO IS THIS GUY?
HE LOOKS KIND OF FAMILIAR.
ANY IDEAS?
ZATANNA, WAIT!
LARTSA SNIAHC, DNIB MIH.
ZEE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
:HUFF: I...COULDN'T KEEP ADAM SAFE. :HUFF: NO ONE ELSE...GETS HURT BECAUSE OF ME. NO ONE.
DON'T DO THIS. I'M TRYING TO HELP!
I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU.
ZATANNA!

♪"ZATANNAAAAA!"
UGHH! IT'S LIKE MY BRAIN IS GETTING RUN THOUGH A BLENDER.
THE SWORD KEEPS WORSENING THE COST I NEED TO PAY WITH EACH SPELL. WHY CAN'T I DISPEL IT? OR DIVINE ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
AND WHERE AM I? WHO WAS THAT WITH THE LADY WHITE? WHY ARE THEY COMING AFTER ME? WHY ADAM?
C'MON, GIRL, ONE THING AT A TIME. FOCUS UP.
SUSPICIOUS STU SUPPOSED... A SUSPICIOUS SUPERSTITION. ÷EXHALE÷
SUSPICIOUS STU SUPPOSED A SUSPICIOUS SUPERSTITION. SUSPICIOUS STU SUPPOSED A SUSPICIOUS SUPERSTITION.
OH! I-I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T--
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU...



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ABSOLUTE
MARTIAN MANHUNTER
#1 PREVIEW
WRITER DENIZ CAMP
ARTIST JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ
LETTERS HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU
YOU LOOK FOR IDENTIFIABLE PATTERNS.
ANYTHING TO MAKE THE WORLD NOT RANDOM.
THAT'S WHAT STOCHASTIC MEANS.
RANDOM.
(How do I know?)
POOR, TRAPPED THINGS. LIGHT THEMSELVES ON FIRE TO ESCAPE.

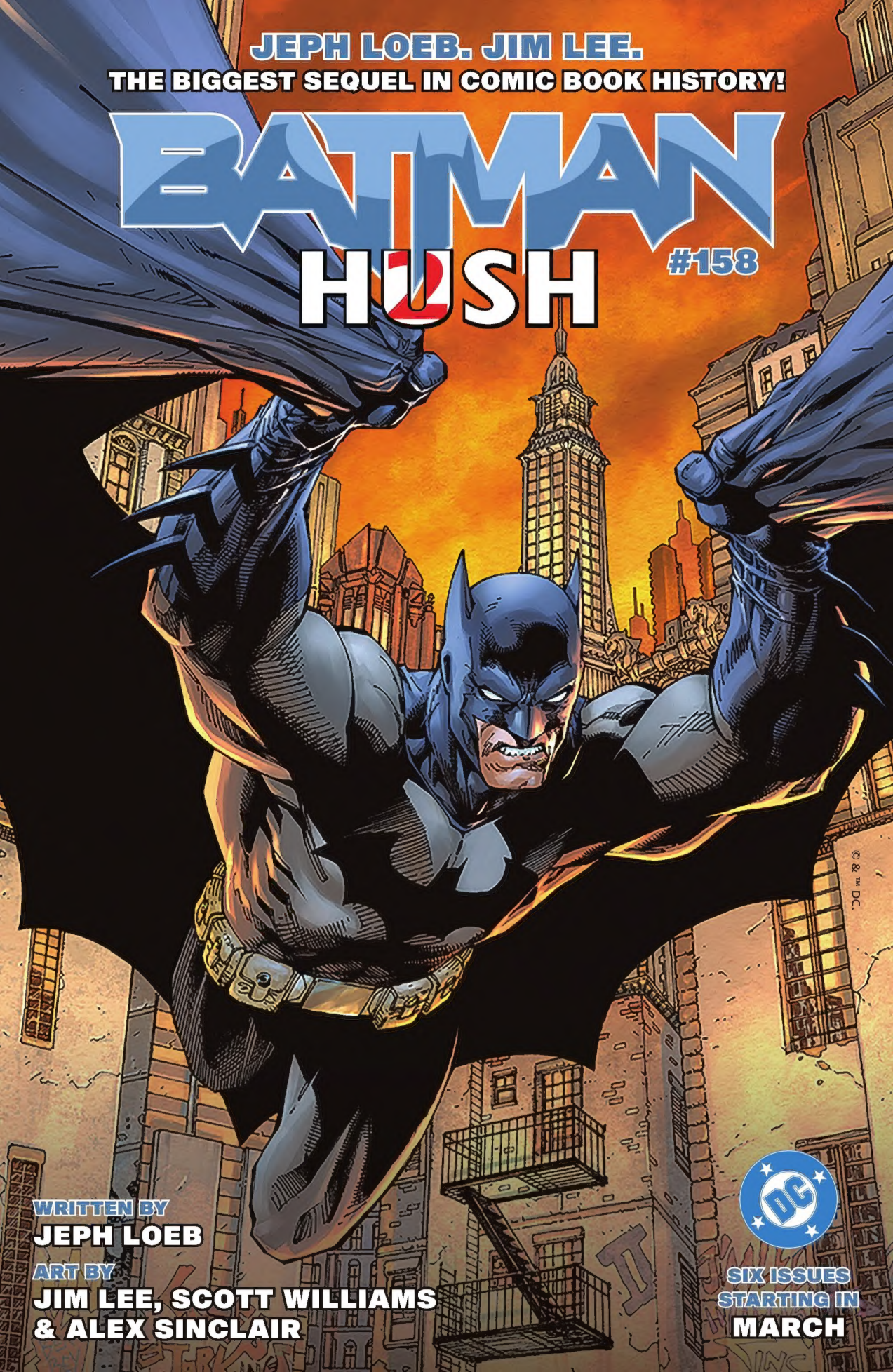
I DRIVE BY MY HOUSE THREE TIMES, NOT RECOGNIZING IT.
WE'VE LIVED HERE FOR ALMOST A YEAR.

I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY WRONG WITH ME.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
Fine.
I THINK I'M GOING CRAZY.

NO VACATION?
NO VACATION.
MEMORY OF...
...LIVING MUSIC DANCING IN DAFFODIL LIGHT, ABSTRACTED CANYONS BEYOND PHYSICS AND FORM--
--WAVES OF QUANTUM FOAM GENTLY LAPPING...
Monsters.
AT LEAST THEY LET YOU COME HOME BEFORE MIDNIGHT FOR A CHANGE. TYLER'S STILL UP. HE'S IN HIS ROOM.

"WHY DON'T YOU GO SAY HI TO YOUR SON?"
MOZART
WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON, TYLER?
IS THAT YOU? AND MOMMY?
THESE ARE REALLY GOOD, TYLER. GREAT JOB. WHERE AM I? WHERE'S DADDY?

I STAY AWAKE ALL NIGHT. TRYING NOT TO THINK OF...
The Man Who Was Thursday
...OF THE SMOKE...
...OF WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME IN IT...
HAVE YOU EVER TRIED NOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING?
IT'S ALL YOU CAN THINK OF.
TO BE CONTINUED IN
ABSOLUTE
MARTIAN MANHUNTER #1
ON SALE IN MARCH!


JEPH LOEB. JIM LEE.
THE BIGGEST SEQUEL IN COMIC BOOK HISTORY!
BATMAN
HUSH
#158
WRITTEN BY
JEPH LOEB
ART BY
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS
& ALEX SINCLAIR
SIX ISSUES
STARTING IN
MARCH
© & ™ DC.

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN HUSH

INTERVIEW WITH JEPH LOEB AND JIM LEE

For more than two decades, "Hush" by writer Jeph Loeb and artist Jim Lee has stood as one of the most popular and influential Batman stories of the 21st century. Now the comics superstars have reunited for a six-part sequel starting in *Batman* #158 and titled "H2SH," with Hush, the titular villain introduced back in 2002, out for revenge against the Dark Knight.

Why was now the right time for "H2SH"?

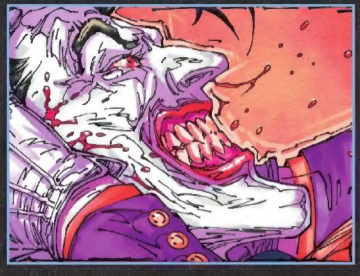
Jim Lee: We've talked about coming back and doing a follow-up to "Hush" for a while. For a variety of reasons, the timing was never right. Because we're doing the All In initiative, where we launched the Absolute line but still wanted crazy things to happen in the core line, it made this return to Hush the right opportunity.

The challenge we had was, how do we recapture that excitement, yet do something new? Jeph, to his credit, crafted a story that feels very much like the opposite side of the coin to what he did 20 years ago. It establishes a new status quo for Batman, new villains, new looks, new locations.

Jeph Loeb: For 20 years, everywhere I've gone, people have asked me whether or not we're going to do it again. My answer was always very honest: When Jim's ready to go, I'll be ready to go. I was in a little tiny airport in Italy, outside of Lucca; my phone rings, and Jim says, "I think it's time for us to revisit these characters and to really come up with something that can not only build on what we did 20 years ago, but take it to the next level." That was the challenge. Certainly artistically, I have no doubt in my mind that Jim, Scott [Williams], and Alex [Sinclair] outdid themselves.

How has Hush himself evolved between these two stories?

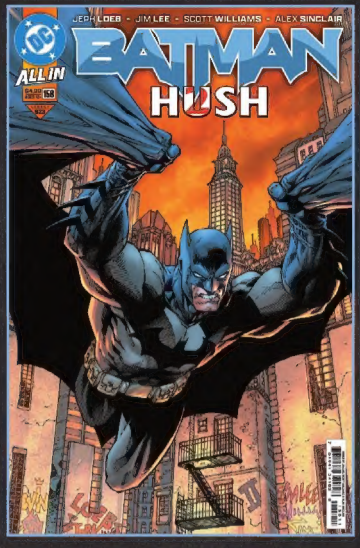
Loeb: So much of what we did in the first story was to play with, "Who is Hush? What does he want? What's going on?" We've now established all that, so in many ways, this is a revenge story. He's learned so much, and one of the great things about the character is that he's a master manipulator. He likes the game of it. It's like moving pieces on a chessboard. You don't want to always play the same game. You want to take it in a new direction.



Jim, in what ways has your visual approach to these characters changed since the original "Hush"?

Lee: All the characters resemble the iconic versions of themselves, but we changed surface elements—melding the work that was done 20 years ago with the work we're doing today.

We're trying to do new kinds of shots, new angles, new color schemes. We're challenging ourselves across the board, because we know there are high expectations. It's also a great way to motivate ourselves, to do hopefully our best creative work.



DON'T MISS *BATMAN* #158, THE FIRST CHAPTER OF "H2SH," ON SALE IN MARCH!

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